

# **Wisconsin Act 309**

**“Helping to Keep our Schools and  
Students...Safe”**



**PRESENTED BY: JOAN LERMAN  
EDUCATION CONSULTANT/PREVENTION  
EDUCATION/VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
SS/PW TEAM  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
INSTRUCTION**



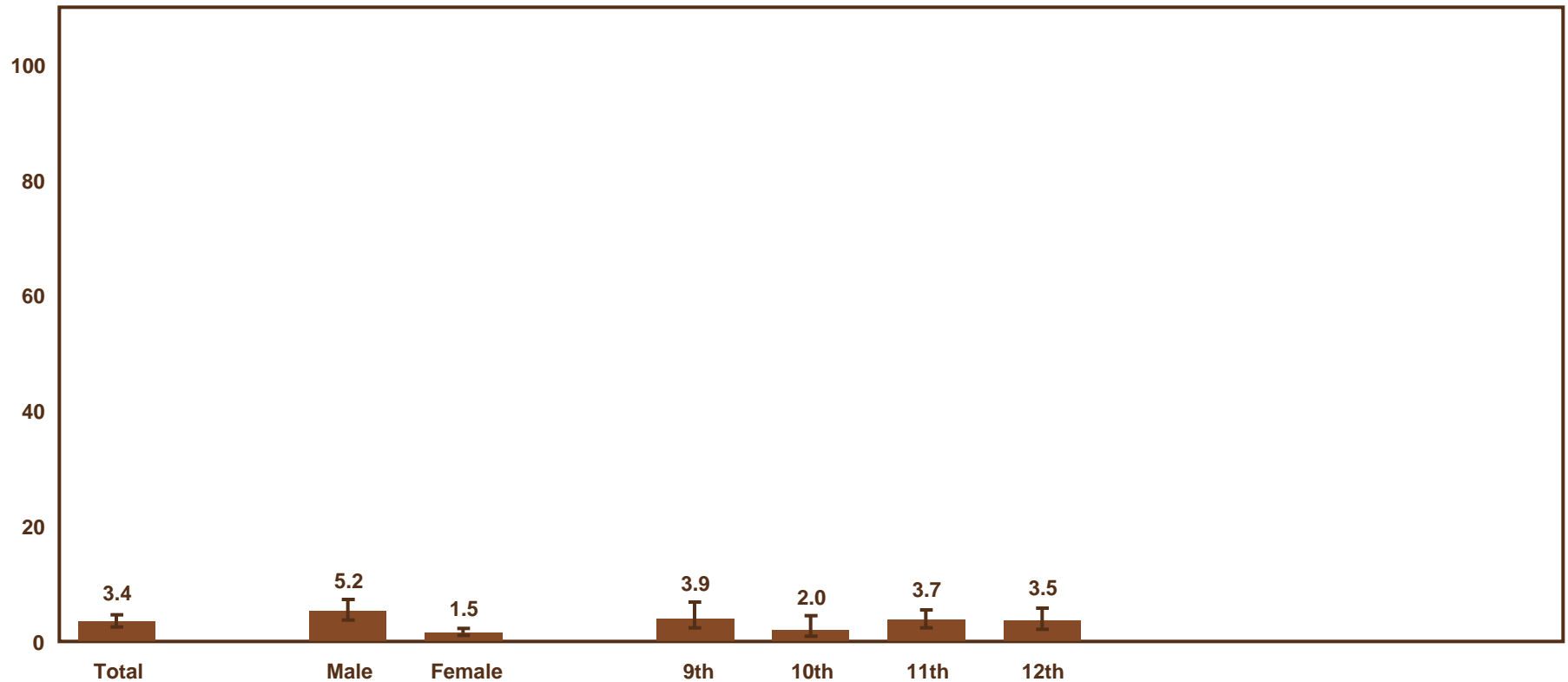
# School Safety in Wisconsin: A brief history



- “Safe and Drug Free Schools” (1987-2011)
- Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 (The onset of “Zero Tolerance” Policies)
- Act Against Violence/Safe Night Wisconsin
- Attorney General’s/State Superintendent’s Safe Schools Task Force
- “Sticks and Stones” anti-bullying Curricula
- Homeland Security Funding for “Center on Citizen School and Youth Preparedness”
- Legislative Counsel Study Committee on Safe Schools

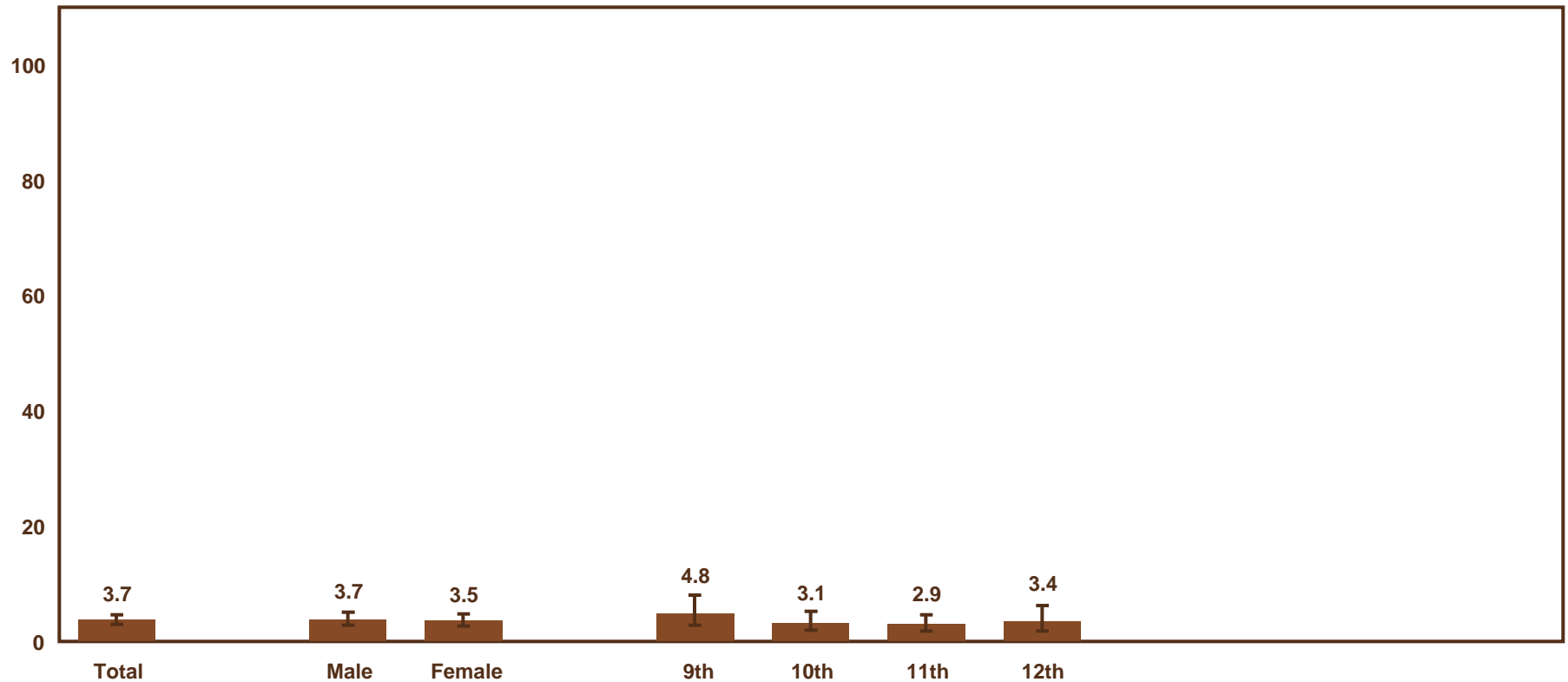
# Wisconsin High School Survey

Percentage of students who carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property on one or more of the past 30 days



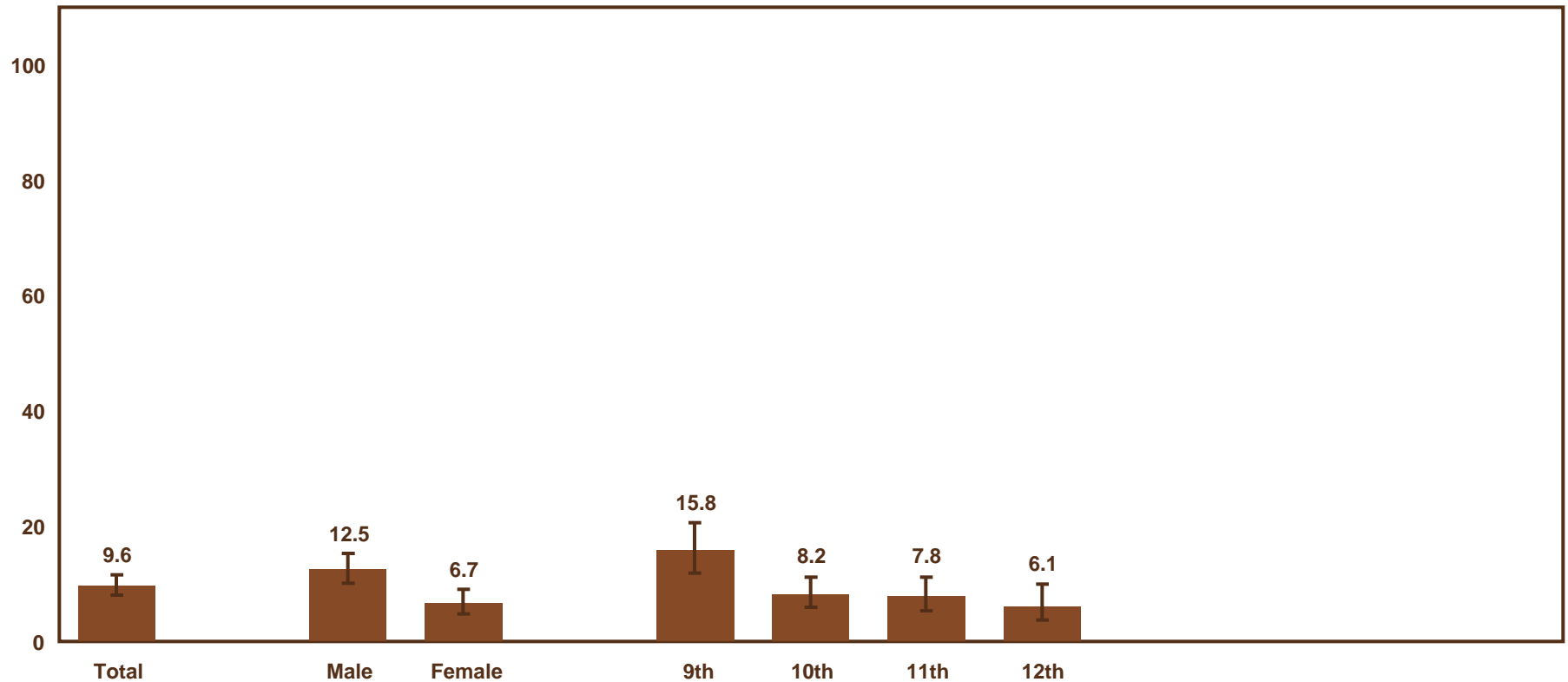
# Wisconsin High School Survey

Percentage of students who did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school



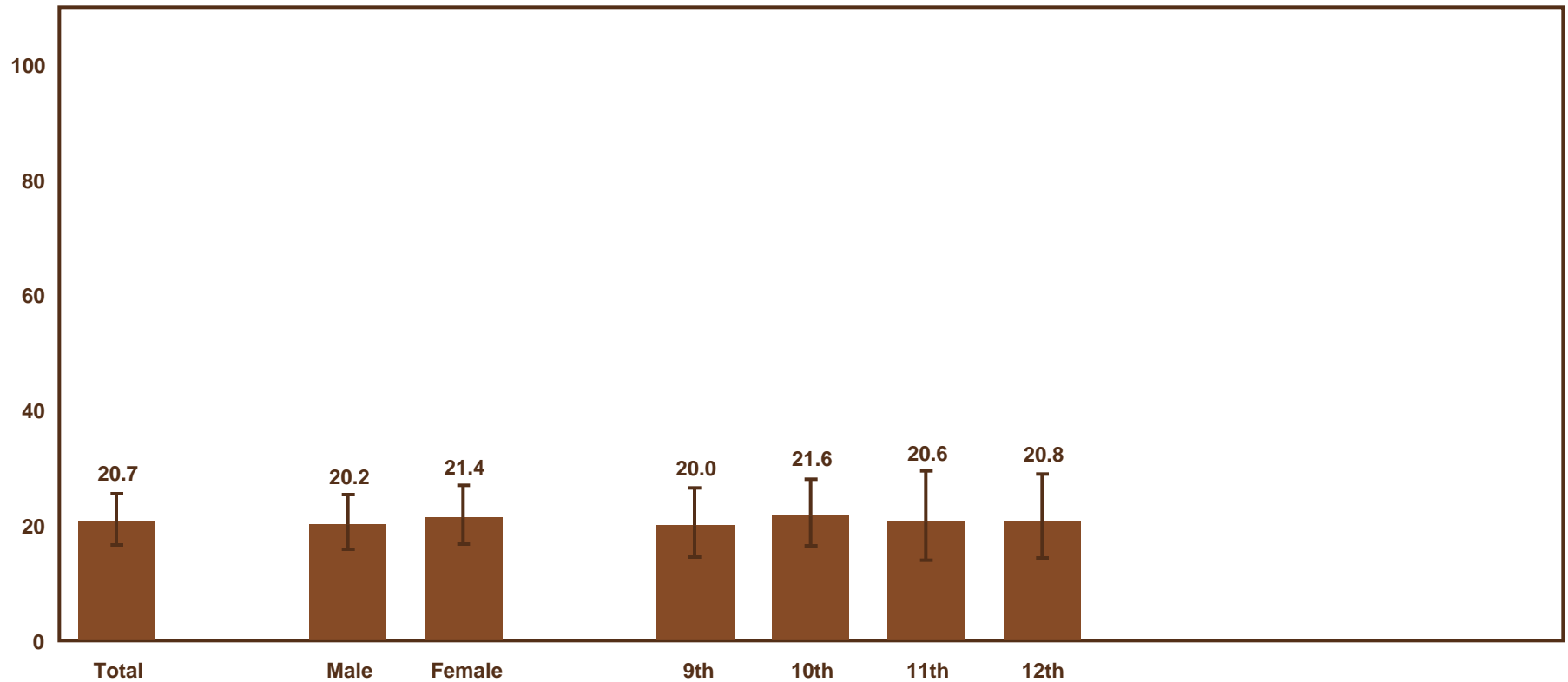
# Wisconsin High School Survey

Percentage of students who were in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months



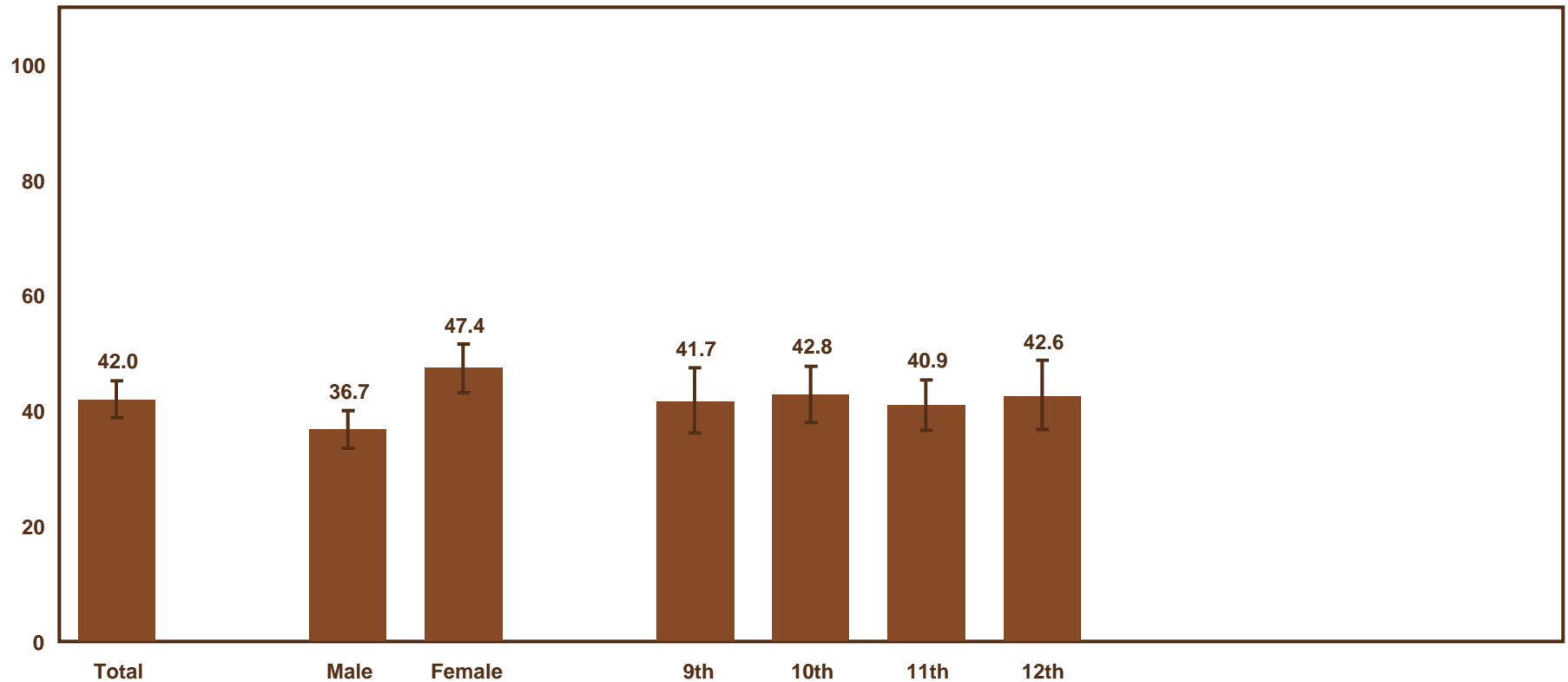
# Wisconsin High School Survey

Percentage of students who strongly agree or agree that violence is a problem at their school



# Wisconsin High School Survey

Percentage of students who strongly agree or agree that harassment and bullying by other students is a problem at their school



# Act 309 of 2009

## (passed and signed in May, 2010)



- **Part I: Anti-Bullying Efforts**
- **Part II: School Safety Plans**
- **Part III: School Safety Drills**
- **Part IV: Sharing Information Across Systems**



# Part I- No More Bullying!



- Required all school districts to adopt a policy that:
  - ✓ Prohibits bullying by pupils
  - ✓ Is provided annually to all pupils enrolled in the district, as well as their parents or guardians
  - ✓ Is provided to other persons that request it
  - ✓ Is in place by August 15, 2010

# Part I-No More Bullying!



- Required the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to develop a **model school policy on bullying** that includes the following:
  - ✓ A definition of bullying
  - ✓ A prohibition on bullying
  - ✓ A procedure for reporting bullying confidentially



- ✓ A prohibition on pupil retaliation for reporting an incident of bullying
- ✓ A procedure for investigating reports of bullying
- ✓ A requirement that school officials report incidents of bullying, and identify the persons to whom the reports must be made
- ✓ A list of disciplinary alternatives for pupils that engage in bullying or retaliate against a reporter of the same



- ✓ An identification of the school-related events at which the policy applies
- ✓ An identification of the property owned, leased, or used by the school district on which the policy applies
- ✓ An identification of the vehicles used for pupil transportation on which the policy applies

# Part I-No More Bullying!



- In addition to the model policy, the Department of Public Instruction was also required to do the following:
  - ✓ Develop a model education and awareness program on bullying
  - ✓ Post the model policy and the model program on the department's website

# Part I-Resources to Address Bullying



- The model policy and program are located at:  
<http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/safeschool.html>
- ✓ The model policy can be adopted to meet the district's requirement to have a policy on bullying
- ✓ The program can be used in grades 3-8, and can be led by anyone from the school
- ✓ Sample lesson- “The Bully Bowl”

## Part II- “Plan Your Work”



- *“A School Safety Plan shall be created with the active participation of appropriate parties, as specified by the school board or governing body of the private school”*
- Appropriate Parties may include:
  - ✓ Law enforcement officers
  - ✓ Fire fighters
  - ✓ School administrators
  - ✓ Teachers
  - ✓ Pupil services professional
  - ✓ Mental health professionals

## Part II- “Plan Your Work”



- *“A school safety plan shall include general guidelines specifying procedures for:*
  - ✓ *Emergency prevention and mitigation*
  - ✓ *Preparedness*
  - ✓ *Response*
  - ✓ *Recovery*



## Part II- “Plan Your Work”



- *“A school board or governing body of the private school shall determine which persons are required to receive school safety training”*
- *“Each school board and the governing body of the private school shall review the school safety plan at least once every 3 years after the plan goes into effect”*

## Part III- “Work Your Plan”



- Section 118.07(2)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes continues to require:
  - ✓ Monthly drills for pupils on proper evacuation methods in case of a fire,
  - ✓ Twice annual evacuation drills for pupils in the event of a tornado or other hazard

## Part III- “Work Your Plan”



- The section was revised to add the following:
  - ✓ Twice annually pupils shall be drilled in the proper method of evacuation, **or other appropriate action in case of a school safety incident.**
  - ✓ These drills shall be based on the procedures outlined in the school safety plan
  - ✓ **A safety drill may be substituted for any other drill required under this section.**

## Part IV- “Sharing Information Across Systems”



- *“Pupil records shall be made available to”...*
  - ✓ *...law enforcement officers who are individually designated by the school board and assigned to the school district...*
  - ✓ *...for any purpose concerning the juvenile justice system and the system’s ability to effectively serve a pupil, prior to adjudication...*

# C0-Presenters



**BARBARA DORFF: GREEN BAY  
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**MIKE HINSKE: BIG FOOT HIGH  
SCHOOL**